

To: OSWER OSRTI IO[OSWER_OSRTI_IO@epa.gov]; Dreyfus, Melissa G.[Dreyfus.Melissa@epa.gov]; Ammon, Doug[Ammon.Doug@epa.gov]; Jeng, Richard[Jeng.Richard@epa.gov]; Fitz-James, Schatzi[Fitz-James.Schatzi@epa.gov]; Scozzafava, MichaelE[Scozzafava.MichaelE@epa.gov]; Stalcup, Dana[Stalcup.Dana@epa.gov]; Wells, Suzanne[Wells.Suzanne@epa.gov]; Zaragoza, Larry[Zaragoza.Larry@epa.gov]
From: Stalcup, Dana
Sent: Thur 10/15/2015 5:55:52 PM
Subject: FW: COMBINING THREADS: Water Treatment QAs (for media, site visit, external notifications)

Dana Stalcup

Director, Assessment and Remediation Division

OSWER/Office of Superfund Remediation and Technology Innovation (OSRTI)

Desk – 703-603-8702

Cell – 202-309-5473

From: Ostrander, David
Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2015 1:48 PM
To: StClair, Christie; Deitz, Randy
Cc: Stalcup, Dana; Williams, Laura; Smith, Paula; Bassler, Rachel; Cohen, Nancy; Levine, Carolyn; Vaught, Laura; Russo, Rebecca; Card, Joan; Distefano, Nichole; Grantham, Nancy; McGrath, Shaun; Lee, Monica; Natarajan, Nitin; Woolford, James; Cheatham, Reggie; Stanislaus, Mathy; Hull, George; Zito, Kelly; Keener, Bill; Gray, David; Harrison, Melissa
Subject: RE: COMBINING THREADS: Water Treatment QAs (for media, site visit, external notifications)

Please see revision below on water treatment.

From: StClair, Christie

Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2015 11:37 AM

To: Deitz, Randy

Cc: Stalcup, Dana; Ostrander, David; Williams, Laura; Smith, Paula; Bassler, Rachel; Cohen, Nancy; Levine, Carolyn; Vaught, Laura; Russo, Rebecca; Card, Joan; Distefano, Nichole; Grantham, Nancy; McGrath, Shaun; Lee, Monica; Natarajan, Nitin; Woolford, James; Cheatham, Reggie; Stanislaus, Mathy; Hull, George; Zito, Kelly; Keener, Bill; Gray, David; Harrison, Melissa

Subject: Re: COMBINING THREADS: Water Treatment QAs (for media, site visit, external notifications)

Thank you. Can someone in R8 help me track down David Ostrander for his approval? It's the last one we need.

Christie St. Clair

Office of Public Affairs

Environmental Protection Agency

o: 202-564-2880

m: 202-768-5780

On Oct 15, 2015, at 1:30 PM, "Deitz, Randy" <Deitz.Randy@epa.gov> wrote:

Yes, I am OK with the statement and the text highlighted in green. Thank you.

Randy Deitz

Attorney Advisor

Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response

(202) 566-0197

From: Stalcup, Dana

Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2015 1:26 PM

To: Deitz, Randy; StClair, Christie

Cc: Ostrander, David; Williams, Laura; Smith, Paula; Bassler, Rachel; Cohen, Nancy; Levine, Carolyn; Vaught, Laura; Russo, Rebecca; Card, Joan; Distefano, Nichole; Grantham, Nancy; McGrath, Shaun; Lee, Monica; Natarajan, Nitin; Woolford, James; Cheatham, Reggie; Stanislaus, Mathy; Hull, George; Ostrander, David; Zito, Kelly; Keener, Bill; Gray, David; Harrison, Melissa

Subject: RE: COMBINING THREADS: Water Treatment QAs (for media, site visit, external notifications)

The two revised green answers look good to me; thanks – Dana S

Dana Stalcup

Director, Assessment and Remediation Division

OSWER/Office of Superfund Remediation and Technology Innovation (OSRTI)

Desk – 703-603-8702

Cell – 202-309-5473

From: Deitz, Randy

Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2015 1:14 PM

To: StClair, Christie; Stalcup, Dana

Cc: Ostrander, David; Williams, Laura; Smith, Paula; Bassler, Rachel; Cohen, Nancy; Levine, Carolyn; Vaught, Laura; Russo, Rebecca; Card, Joan; Distefano, Nichole; Grantham, Nancy; McGrath, Shaun; Lee, Monica; Natarajan, Nitin; Woolford, James; Cheatham, Reggie; Stanislaus, Mathy; Hull, George; Ostrander, David; Zito, Kelly; Keener, Bill; Gray, David; Harrison, Melissa

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As long as the regions, OSRTI, and OEM are OK with the technical aspects of our responses, the OSWER AA had no comments and supports doing stakeholder notifications.

Randy Deitz

Attorney Advisor

Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response

(202) 566-0197

From: StClair, Christie

Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2015 1:11 PM

To: Deitz, Randy; Stalcup, Dana

Cc: Ostrander, David; Williams, Laura; Smith, Paula; Bassler, Rachel; Cohen, Nancy; Levine, Carolyn; Vaught, Laura; Russo, Rebecca; Card, Joan; Distefano, Nichole; Grantham, Nancy; McGrath, Shaun; Lee, Monica; Natarajan, Nitin; Woolford, James; Cheatham, Reggie; Stanislaus, Mathy; Hull, George; Ostrander, David; Zito, Kelly; Keener, Bill; Gray, David; Harrison, Melissa

Subject: RE: COMBINING THREADS: Water Treatment QAs (for media, site visit, external notifications)

All,

Here is a draft statement and supporting QAs for notifications. I've updated based on Dana's and Randy's suggestions – revisions are in green for review.

R9, can you handle NN Notifications?

Rebecca, please do notify CDPHE.

Please let me and Nancy know if you have any edits. I'll send a final version so that Rebecca and R9 can begin notifications.

Thanks,

Christie

Gold King Mine Water Treatment Plant About to Commence Treatment

Deliberative Process/Ex. 5

Additional details on the water treatment plant and future plans are contained in the Q&A below.

For the Sept. 23 press release on the water treatment plant, please visit:

<http://www2.epa.gov/goldkingmine/september-23-2015-epa-announces-gold-king-mine-water-treatment-system-winter-2015-16>

For regular updates on Gold King Mine activities, please visit: <http://www2.epa.gov/goldkingmine>

Deliberative Process/Ex. 5

Deliberative Process/Ex. 5

Environmental Protection Agency

Washington, DC

o: 202-564-2880

m: 202-768-5780

From: Deitz, Randy

Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2015 1:09 PM

To: Stalcup, Dana <Stalcup.Dana@epa.gov>; StClair, Christie <StClair.Christie@epa.gov>

Cc: Ostrander, David <Ostrander.David@epa.gov>; Williams, Laura

<williams.laura@epa.gov>; Smith, Paula <Smith.Paula@epa.gov>; Bassler, Rachel

<Bassler.Rachel@epa.gov>; Cohen, Nancy <Cohen.Nancy@epa.gov>; Levine, Carolyn

<Levine.Carolyn@epa.gov>; Vaught, Laura <Vaught.Laura@epa.gov>; Russo, Rebecca

<Russo.Rebecca@epa.gov>; Card, Joan <Card.Joan@epa.gov>; Distefano, Nichole

<DiStefano.Nichole@epa.gov>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; McGrath,

Shaun <McGrath.Shaun@epa.gov>; Lee, Monica <Lee.Monica@epa.gov>; Natarajan,

Nitin <Natarajan.Nitin@epa.gov>; Woolford, James <Woolford.James@epa.gov>;

Cheatham, Reggie <cheatham.reggie@epa.gov>; Stanislaus, Mathy

<Stanislaus.Mathy@epa.gov>; Hull, George <Hull.George@epa.gov>; Ostrander, David

<Ostrander.David@epa.gov>; Zito, Kelly <ZITO.KELLY@EPA.GOV>; Keener, Bill

<Keener.Bill@epa.gov>; Gray, David <gray.david@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: COMBINING THREADS: Water Treatment QAs (for media, site visit, external notifications)

Deliberative Process/Ex. 5

Randy Deitz

Attorney Advisor

Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response

(202) 566-0197

From: Stalcup, Dana

Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2015 12:56 PM

To: StClair, Christie

Cc: Ostrander, David; Williams, Laura; Smith, Paula; Bassler, Rachel; Cohen, Nancy; Levine, Carolyn; Vaught, Laura; Russo, Rebecca; Card, Joan; Distefano, Nichole; Grantham, Nancy; Deitz, Randy; McGrath, Shaun; Lee, Monica; Natarajan, Nitin; Woolford, James; Cheatham, Reggie; Stanislaus, Mathy; Hull, George; Ostrander, David; Zito, Kelly; Keener, Bill; Gray, David

Subject: RE: COMBINING THREADS: Water Treatment QAs (for media, site visit, external notifications)

Thanks for folding these together.

Deliberative Process/Ex. 5

On the second green question on long-term improvements, the response looks fine, but I have a couple of observations/thoughts:

Deliberative Process/Ex. 5

Thanks – Dana S

Dana Stalcup

Director, Assessment and Remediation Division

OSWER/Office of Superfund Remediation and Technology Innovation (OSRTI)

Desk – 703-603-8702

Cell – 202-309-5473

From: StClair, Christie

Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2015 12:35 PM

Cc: Ostrander, David; Stalcup, Dana; Williams, Laura; Smith, Paula; Bassler, Rachel; Cohen, Nancy; Levine, Carolyn; Vaught, Laura; Russo, Rebecca; Card, Joan; Distefano, Nichole; Grantham, Nancy; Deitz, Randy; McGrath, Shaun; Lee, Monica; Natarajan, Nitin; Woolford, James; Cheatham, Reggie; Stanislaus, Mathy; Hull, George; Stalcup, Dana; Ostrander, David; Zito, Kelly; Keener, Bill; Gray, David

Subject: RE: COMBINING THREADS: Water Treatment QAs (for media, site visit, external notifications)

Plus David Gray

Christie St. Clair

Office of Public Affairs

Environmental Protection Agency

Washington, DC

o: 202-564-2880

m: 202-768-5780

From: StClair, Christie

Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2015 12:23 PM

Cc: Ostrander, David <Ostrander.David@epa.gov>; Stalcup, Dana <Stalcup.Dana@epa.gov>; Williams, Laura <williams.laura@epa.gov>; Smith, Paula <Smith.Paula@epa.gov>; Bassler, Rachel <Bassler.Rachel@epa.gov>; Cohen, Nancy <Cohen.Nancy@epa.gov>; Levine, Carolyn <Levine.Carolyn@epa.gov>; Vaught, Laura <Vaught.Laura@epa.gov>; Russo, Rebecca <Russo.Rebecca@epa.gov>; Card, Joan <Card.Joan@epa.gov>; Distefano, Nichole <DiStefano.Nichole@epa.gov>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Deitz, Randy <Deitz.Randy@epa.gov>; McGrath, Shaun <McGrath.Shaun@epa.gov>; Lee, Monica <Lee.Monica@epa.gov>; Natarajan, Nitin <Natarajan.Nitin@epa.gov>; Woolford, James <Woolford.James@epa.gov>; Cheatham, Reggie <cheatham.reggie@epa.gov>; Stanislaus, Mathy <Stanislaus.Mathy@epa.gov>; Hull, George <Hull.George@epa.gov>; Stalcup, Dana <Stalcup.Dana@epa.gov>; Ostrander, David <Ostrander.David@epa.gov>; Zito, Kelly <ZITO.KELLY@EPA.GOV>; Keener, Bill <Keener.Bill@epa.gov>
Subject: COMBINING THREADS: Water Treatment QAs (for media, site visit, external notifications)

All,

There are two email threads circulating right now, covering the same ground. I'm combining the cc list for both the Associated Press and Gold King Mine – Water Treatment threads. Please loop anybody else needed.

Here is an updated Q&A for use with current media inquiries (AP and Denver Post both writing on this today), new media inquiries that will come in, today's GKM site visit, and notifications to states, tribes and local stakeholders.

This update deletes contact referrals to CDPHE.

Questions:

1. There are two responses highlighted in green that need final review by David Ostrander, Nancy Grantham and/or OSRTI. I need these approved ASAP for use with media.

2. Will these QAs work as the basis for the statement? Anything else needed?
3. Rebecca Russo is notifying congressionals, states, counties and cities. Are Navajo Nation and CDPHE included in her list? We should notify as soon as the responses are approved.

Nancy and I are meeting in a moment to discuss.

Thanks,

Christie

Q: Exactly where is the treatment plant going to be installed?

[Final, approved response] The plant will be installed at the Gladstone, CO command post area, about 10 miles north of Silverton, CO and the junction of Country Rtes 110 and 35.

Q: How will the plant treat the toxic wastewater? (i.e. what is the exact process by which the toxic material will be removed from the water?)

[Final, approved response] Here is basic technical information provided by the sub-contractor, based on their experience they are confident that the plant design will achieve:

- ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ Discharging treated water from the system will have a neutral pH in the range of between 6.0 and 9.0 pH units. (pH, or the acidity of a fluid ranges from 0.0 for acid to 14.0 for caustic fluids and neutral is 7.0)
- ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ Dissolved solids will be reduced by removal of metals and formation of metal hydroxide sludge.
- ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ Total solids will be reduced by coagulation, flocculation, and settling through the clarifier.
- ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ Color is currently caused primarily by iron oxidation, and staining is caused both by iron and manganese in the mine water forming precipitates on rocks and in sediments. The treatment process will remove both iron and manganese by more than 90%, reducing the potential for color.

Q: After treatment, will the water be of high enough quality for drinking?

[Final, approved response] This plant is not designed to output drinking quality water; see EPA's September 23, 2015 press release for more detail on intent and purpose.

Q: What is the cleanup rate for total and dissolved metals?

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Q: When will it start operating?

[Final, approved response] All the major components for the water treatment plant are now on-site. Pipe has been run from the Gold King Mine treatment ponds down to the Gladstone site. We are now connecting all the components, and anticipate that water will start flowing on Friday, Oct. 16. It will then take about a week to fully adjust the treatment system for optimal performance.

Q: Will the treatment plant address contaminated water spilling from sites other than Gold King Mine?

[Final, approved response] Please keep in mind that the water treatment plant is addressing only discharge from Gold King Mine. It will make some improvement in water quality in Cement Creek, but is not intended to be a solution to the broader problem of discharging mine in the Upper Animas. Mines in the area have been releasing contaminated mine wastewater into the environment for decades, and addressing the situation is a complicated problem. (The Red and Bonita Mine, for example, continues to discharge at 350 gpm directly into Cement Creek.)

Q: What are the next steps for long-term improvement to the Upper Animas region?

Deliberative Process/Ex. 5

2011, significant new environmental data has been collected since then that needs to be considered.

Deliberative Process/Ex. 5

Christie St. Clair

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Washington, DC

o: 202-564-2880

m: 202-768-5780